

WHAT'S *New*

in the Metropolitan Police Department



*A weekly update for residents, visitors,
and workers in the District of Columbia*

Friday, December 19, 2003

CHIEF RAMSEY UPDATES DC COUNCIL ON MPDC PERFORMANCE IN MANAGING DEMONSTRATIONS

Chief Ramsey this week praised the men and women of the MPDC for their performance in protecting free speech rights and ensuring public safety for the hundreds of thousands of people who come to the Nation's Capital each year to exercise their Constitutional rights. In testimony before the DC Council's Committee on the Judiciary, the Chief pointed out that the MPDC has handled a total of 1,553 protest events in DC since April 2000, with very few resulting in violence, property damage or arrests. "I am proud that in any given year our Department is there to protect the Constitutional rights of more demonstrators than any other police department in America – and proud that we are able to do so without the type of disruptions, property damage and even violence that have occurred at similar events in other cities," he said. The Chief added that while he considers the MPDC to be among the very best when it comes to managing major events, the Department also scrutinizes its operations and is willing to make improvements when they are needed. For example, after questions were raised about the MPDC's handling of several non-permitted demonstrations on September 27, 2002, the Chief ordered an internal investigation, which resulted in three major suggestions for improvement. In accepting those suggestions, the Chief also ordered that 10 additional reforms, related to areas such as the issuance of warnings and prisoner processing, be implemented. The Chief also said the Department will be developing additional guidelines that address some of the issues raised during the Committee's hearings, including the use of undercover officers. Ramsey told the Committee that, with the heightened threat of terrorism in DC, the vast majority of protest organizers recognize the importance of public safety considerations during their events, and he praised the spirit of cooperation that has developed between the MPDC and most demonstrators. "Thanks to the hard work of both police and protesters, DC today remains an open and accessible city for vigorous and peaceful protest."

- ① Read Chief Ramsey's complete statement at:

<http://www.mpdcc.dc.gov/news/stmts/2003/12/121803.shtm>

- ① In most instances, residents and organizations planning a special event in DC are required to obtain permits for their events. To help make this process easier and more efficient, the MPDC has information and application permit forms available on the web at:

<http://www.mpdcc.dc.gov/serv/events/events.shtm>

BILINGUAL FAMILY LIAISON SPECIALIST AMONG CIVILIAN POSITIONS IN THE MPDC

The MPDC is currently recruiting for a bilingual (English-Spanish) Family Liaison Specialist who will assist family members of homicide victims as part of the MPDC's expanded victim outreach efforts. Among other duties, the Family Liaison Specialist will be responsible for establishing supportive relationships with the families of homicide victims, explaining the investigative process, assessing the needs of family members and working with homicide detectives to deal with survivor-related issues that arise during the course of the investigation. The individual will also develop an action plan regarding the initial and ongoing contact with the family, make referrals to other service providers and provide crisis intervention as needed. Applications for the Family Liaison Specialist are being accepted until January 9, 2004. Other civilian positions currently available in the MPDC include a community service representative, management analysis officer, management analyst and staff assistant.

- ① For complete information about all of these positions, including application procedures and forms, click on:

<http://mpdc.dc.gov/about/employ/civilian.shtm>

- ① Individuals interested in volunteering for the MPDC Reserve Corps can get information and an application form online by going to:

http://www.mpdcc.dc.gov/serv/programs/services_PRC.shtm

HOLIDAY REMINDER: CELEBRATE RESPONSIBLY... AND DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE IN DC

Metropolitan Police officers will be out in force this holiday season, looking for drunk drivers, speeders and other aggressive or unsafe drivers. Several sobriety checkpoints will be conducted between now and New Year's Day, as part of the MPDC's participation in the regional Checkpoint Strikeforce initiative. The MPDC is also joining with DC's Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration in urging liquor establishments to check everyone's identification, impose restrictions on individuals who have too much to drink, and support both the designated driver and SoberRide programs. Sponsored by the Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP), SoberRide is providing holiday revelers with free cab rides home (up to \$50) every day through January 1 at 4 am, by calling (800) 200-TAXI (200-8294). AT&T Wireless users can access the service by dialing #TAXI. The MPDC reminds motorists that DC has tough drunk driving laws, including a Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) standard of .08, zero tolerance for youthful offenders, and penalties that include stiff fines, license revocation and the possibility of jail time, even for first offenders.

KEEPING YOUR HOLIDAY GIFTS SECURE: SOME COMMON-SENSE BURGLARY PREVENTION TIPS

Burglars know that many households have new, and sometimes expensive, items in their homes following the December holidays – computers and peripherals, stereo components, televisions, cameras and other electronic equipment. In too many cases, residents make it easy for burglars to figure out which homes to target by putting boxes that identify their new gifts in plain view with their other garbage. Avoid becoming an easy target for post-holiday burglars by not leaving boxes for new electronics and other items in the alley or other garbage pick-up locations for several days at a time. Instead, break down any boxes you are throwing out, put them in garbage bags and place them inside a trashcan. (In many cases, especially with computer equipment, you probably want to keep the boxes for safe storage, shipping or moving in the future.) Think about keeping broken-down boxes inside – in a garage, for example – until the evening before your regular garbage pick-up. Some burglars actually look inside garbage cans for evidence of holiday gifts. And, of course, if you see someone suspicious casing your alley, call the Metropolitan Police Department's non-emergency number, 3-1-1; if you see a burglary in progress, call 9-1-1.

NEWS & NOTES

Holiday Schedules. In observance of the Christmas and New Year's holidays, most administrative offices of the MPDC's will be closed on Thursday, December 25, Friday, December 26, and Thursday, January 1 (2004). Police patrols, emergency communications and other essential operations will be fully staffed on these dates.

Visitor Parking Permits. Expecting out-of-town guests this holiday season who need to park their vehicles in a zoned parking area? Information about obtaining free Visitor Parking Permits is available at <http://www.mpdcc.dc.gov/info/traffic/visitorpermits.shtm>

Viewing of Recovered Stolen Property. On Saturday, December 20, from 10 am to 2 pm, detectives assigned to the Second District will hold a viewing of recovered stolen property taken in burglaries in Northwest between April and June of 2003. The event will take place at 2D headquarters, 3320 Idaho Avenue, NW. Individuals should bring police report numbers and an itemized list of property that was stolen. For details, contact Detective Neil Jones at (202) 282-0043 or via e-mail at njones@mpdc.org.

- ① Learn more about drunk driving laws in DC by going to:
<http://www.mpdcc.dc.gov/info/traffic/duihome.shtm>
- ① Want more information about the SoberRide program? Click on:
<http://www.soberride.com>
- ① The stepped-up drunk driving patrols come as the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reports the latest statistics on drunk driving fatalities in DC and nationally. Details at:
<http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov>
- ① For a complete list of winter holiday safety tips for shoppers, travelers and when you're at home, visit:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/season/winter.shtm>

DATA BOX

Homicides (as of 12/19/03)

- 2003: 236
- 2002: 254
- % Change: -7.1%

Adult Arrests (week end. 12/13/03)

- Total: 718
- Drugs: 127
- Motor Vehicle Theft: 15
- Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 51

Firearm Recoveries (as of 12/16/03)

- Total: 1,908
- December: 107

Traffic Fatalities (as of 12/19/03)

- 2003: 64
- 2002: 49
- % Change: +30.6%

Information, ideas, or comments about this service? Send an e-mail to **KEVIN MORISON**, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kevin.morison@dc.gov. Would you like to have this information e-mailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with **Crimereports.com**.

mpdc.dc.gov